

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 IO-10 /053 W

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R 110700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, EI, UK (NI)

SUBJECT PROVO LEADER DAITHI O'CONAILL ARRESTED

1. SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS OF THE IRISH POLICE IN A RAID ON A PRIVATE HOUSE IN NORTH DUBLIN JULY 9 ARRESTED DAITHI O'CONAILL, A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE PROVISIONAL I.R.A. O'CONAILL WAS ALONE IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE RAID AND OFFERED NO RESISTANCE TO THE POLICE. HE IS BEING HELD UNDER SECTION 30 OF THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE ACT, AND CAN BE DETAINED FOR UP TO 48 HOURS WITHOUT CHARGE. POLICE HAVE REFUSED TO SAY WHAT CHARGES MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AND WHETHER HE WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT.

2. O'CONAILL HAS BEEN AN I.R.A. ACTIVIST SINCE THE EARLY 1950'S AND HE HAS BEEN JAILED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF DARING EXPLOITS, AND THE PRESS HAS DUBBED HIM THE "GREEN PIMPERNEL." O'CONAILL LAST ESCAPED FROM POLICE CUSTODY IN 1972 AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY ELUDED A NUMBER OF SECURITY NETS SINCE THAT TIME. HE WAS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE TALKS THAT LED TO THE PROVISIONAL I.R.A. CEASEFIRE THAT IS STILL IN EFFECT.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME WHETHER THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN THE TIMING OF O'CONAILL'S ARREST OR WHETHER THE POLICE WERE SIMPLY LUCKY IN APPREHENDING HIM.

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REND AHL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Type: TE
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